

# Pesticide Newsletter

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## Some Useful Web Sites

Label and MSDS information:

- ♦ [www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp](http://www.cdms.net/manuf/manuf.asp)
- ♦ [www.bluebooktor.com](http://www.bluebooktor.com)

Maps and Aerial Photos

- ♦ <http://terraserver-usa.com>
- ♦ <http://nris.state.mt.us>

If you know of any useful web sites, please let us know at [jakirkland@mt.gov](mailto:jakirkland@mt.gov), we will post them in the next newsletter.

## Mosquito Repellents and Protecting Yourself Against Mosquito-Borne Diseases

*Submitted by Patricia Denke, Entomologist*

The Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) have recently announced that data show two additional materials to be relatively effective in repelling mosquitoes. This increases to three the number of materials people can use to repel mosquitoes for extended periods of time in field conditions. The three materials are DEET, which has been on the market for nearly 50 years, picaridin, a new material being marketed by Cutter, and oil of lemon eucalyptus. All three materials show efficacy in repelling mosquitoes sufficiently to provide some protection from mosquitoes. The picaridin containing products provide protection similar to DEET containing products with the same level of active ingredient, and the oil of lemon eucalyptus products provide protection similar to some of the lower concentrations of DEET.

However, the CDC also emphasizes that people should continue to use other protective measures, such as wearing long sleeves and pants, as well as shoes and socks, in areas

where mosquitoes are active. People at high risk for mosquito-borne diseases, and complications of mosquito-borne diseases may wish to consider avoiding areas with high concentrations of mosquitoes. People who are at higher risk include the elderly, very young, and those with impaired immune systems.

Mosquitoes are more active at dusk and dawn, although many species of mosquitoes in Montana will feed throughout the day. In addition, they tend to be more prevalent in areas with high relative humidity, such as grassy meadows and hay fields, as well as near water.

In addition, reduction of mosquito populations should also be encouraged. Elimination of standing water, and treatment of water that cannot be eliminated is the single most effective method of reducing mosquito populations. REMEMBER, always read and follow label directions! THE LABEL IS THE LAW!



## Groundwater Changes Benefit Industry and Environment

*By Nancy K. Peterson, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture*

An increase in the number of ground water monitoring wells and a clarification in state laws regarding actions when crop chemicals are found in ground water should help protect producers, pesticide applicators and the environment. Passage of Senate Bill 107 enables the department to use education and other non-regulatory means to address situations when low levels of pesticides are detected in monitoring wells.

The goal remains to prevent ground water contamination and protect our drinking water and environment. Technology for detecting pesticides has advanced to the point that chemicals

can be measured in parts per trillion. When quantities are extremely low, the legislation enables the department to consider measures that are less drastic than a Specific Management Plan, a regulatory procedure that can cost up to \$500,000 per plan.

There are now 29 state ground water monitoring wells, situated in key locations throughout Montana. Recent history in the Fairfield area has shown that it is possible to protect ground water through education and cooperative efforts by producers, chemical manufacturers, applicators and the state.

## *Homeland Security Efforts Prompt Data Requests*

*By Greg Ames, Administrator, Agricultural Sciences Division*

This department, along with other states throughout the West, is working with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare crop risk assessments and response plans that will foster cooperation in the event of an emergency.

The department has been cooperating with the federal Department of Homeland Security and Montana office of Disaster and Emergency Services on prevention, readiness and response to any intentional efforts to harm our nation's food supply and agricultural infrastructure.

The state homeland security plan calls for risk assessments, response plans, heightened awareness, improved communications, laboratory readiness and training to enhance the ability to prevent and deal with threats – either from foreign or U.S.-based groups.

This department, along with other states throughout the West, is working with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare crop risk assessments and response plans that will foster cooperation in the event of an emergency. Some of these efforts also will help Montana in responding to non-terrorism occurrences including the emergence of new pests or the accidental contamination of food or feed commodities.

As part of this effort, the department has been updating its computer databases for pesticide, fertilizer, seed, nursery and other licenses. This will enable us to provide geographical information to responders if an emergency occurs.

Applicators, dealers and other businesses that are licensed by the state may notice that renewal forms will contain a space for geographic location data. Department personnel will carry portable Global Positioning System (GPS) units when conducting inspections to help gather some of this information. Many agricultural services providers already use GPS technology to guide in-field pesticide and fertilizer applications.

If you have the requested information, or can gather it easily with your own equipment, please supply the data on the form. If the information is not available, there is no cause for concern. Field staff and the department's Technical Services Bureau will use portable GPS units, software designed to convert physical addresses and other means to gather information and update the databases in the coming months.

Accurate information will assist in promptly contacting businesses if any localized or regional threats are discovered when quick communication with agricultural professionals is desired.

## *Help! Topic Idea's Needed*

*Submitted by Janet Kirkland, Training/Development Specialist*



The Department of Agriculture is asking for help with presentation topics for the fall recertification training. The pesticide categories up for recertification training are:

- ♦ Industrial Instructional Structural and Health related Pest Control (PCO)
- ♦ School IPM
- ♦ Seed Treatment & Elevator Pest Control

We are starting to put the programs together for applicators licensed in the listed categories. The training will be held in Billings, MT October

ber 17, 2005, Great Falls, MT October 19, 2005 and Missoula, MT October 21, 2005. Facilities have yet to be determined at each location. The department will send out pre-registrations, agendas and additional information in September.

Should you have ideas for topics or suggested speakers, please contact Janet Kirkland at jakirkland@mt.gov or 406-444-5400.

Thank you for your participation in the recertification process.

## What to Do When Unwanted Pesticides Arrive

What do office copier supplies and pesticides have in common? Both are peddled by telemarketers and sometimes are shipped by unscrupulous companies even after a potential buyer says no to a sales pitch.

Each year, the Montana Department of Agriculture learns of telemarketing scams involving pesticides that are unregistered, over-priced or poorly suited to Montana. Unexpected solicitations for any product should cause consumers to be wary.

When a product is offered at unbelievably low prices or a seller claims it works better than a well-known product, how can a person verify these claims? Often, products being pitched are ineffective for, or not labeled for, the purposes being claimed. Some are lawn or garden use products advertised as agricultural-use chemicals.

If products arrive even after a sales pitch is rejected, the best course of action is to refuse the parcel without opening it, says Cort Jensen, attorney specialist with the Consumer Protection Office of the Montana Department of Administration. If a product or parcel is left at a residence or business, consumers should contact the sender and indicate that the shipment may be picked up or will be sent back if the sender furnishes instructions and a method to pay the necessary freight.

Unscrupulous vendors occasionally threaten to ruin a consumers credit by turning disputes over to collection agencies. Although the threat is easy to make on the telephone, Leonard Berry,

pesticide program manager at the Montana Department of Agriculture, says he is unaware of any case in which collections were pursued by telemarketers engaged in questionable practices.

When a consumer is tempted by a seemingly attractive offer, it pays to ask a few questions, and verify the answers, before agreeing to purchase farm chemicals offered by telephone solicitors or on the Internet. The Montana Department of Agriculture recommends asking these questions before agreeing to purchase anything:

- What is the seller's Montana pesticide dealer license number?
- Is the product registered for use in the state?
- What is the product's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number? With the number, buyers can look up the label and material safety data sheets on an EPA website at: <http://oaspub.epa.gov/pestlabl/ppls.home>
- What is the name and percentage of the product's active ingredient? How does this compare with other products registered for the same use?
- What is the sales company's name, address and telephone number?

The best advice, is to buy pesticides only from a licensed, reputable Montana pesticide dealer who can offer advice, printed EPA-approved labels and service after the sale.

Producers who want more information about pesticide and applicator licensing in Montana, or who would like to report a questionable sales call, are urged to contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5400 or by e-mail at [agr@mt.gov](mailto:agr@mt.gov).



Is the product registered for use in the state?

What is the sales company's name, address and telephone number?

## New Look to the Departments Web Site

Submitted by Kim Johnson, Weed Grant Coordinator

The Department of Agriculture's web site has a new look to better help the public navigate, find information, and download forms. Several department staff worked long and hard to have the new web site ready for the public by the end of September. Commercial/governmental applicators and dealers can find information under the Pesticide/Fertilizer tab on the department's home page. Below is a snapshot of the department's new look. Take a look for yourself at [www.agr.mt.gov](http://www.agr.mt.gov).



## This Issue's Noxious Weed

Submitted by Dave Burch, Weed Coordinator  
Contact: Weed Section at 406-444-5400



Petals are white and arranged in a cross formation. Leaves are blue-green and clasp the stem.

### Whitetop Complex

*Cardaria draba*,  
*C. pubescens*, *C. chalapensis*  
Brassicaceae (Mustard family)

Category 1 Weed

Whitetop, also known as hoary cress, are native to northern Eurasia. They're deep-rooted perennial forbs that reproduce from root segments and seeds. Growth begins early in the spring with the blue-green, lance-shaped leaves of the basal rosette. Stem leaves are blue-green to gray-green and arrowhead-shaped with occasional finely toothed edges. All leaves are covered with soft white hairs. Leaves of the lower stem are on stalks, while leaves of the upper stem attach directly to the stem with two clasping lobes. As members of the mustard family, whitetop are characterized by flowers with four petals arranged in a cross. The petals are white. Small, individual flowers are borne on slender, ½ inch long stalks. Dense clusters of small flowers create the white, flat-top appearance from which the common name is derived. Seed capsules are broad, flat, heart-shaped pods with two reddish-brown seeds.

## Aquifer in a Cup

Activity Source: *The Groundwater Gazette*, published by the Groundwater Foundation intended as an exercise for youth.



Look closely at this line created by the water.

### Objective

Groundwater is water that is found underground in the spaces and cracks between soil, sand and gravel. Often hidden from view, in this activity you will "see" what groundwater looks like and learn some basic groundwater vocabulary.

### Materials Needed

2 clear cups  
Sand  
Gravel or aquarium rock  
Pitcher of water

### Procedure

1. Fill both cups with layers of sand and gravel to about 3/4 from the top of each cup. Remember that in nature, **aquifers** consist of layers of sand, gravel and rock.
2. In one of the cups, pour water slowly into it. Watch how the water fills the spaces between the particles of sand and gravel. Does the water appear to move faster through the sand or faster through the gravel? Why?
3. Now continue to fill this cup with water to the top (above the top of the sand and gravel). Water that is located above ground, like rivers and lakes, is called **surface water**. Water below the ground's surface is called **groundwater**.
4. In the second cup, slowly pour water into

the cup until the water line is about one inch below the top of the sand/gravel. Look closely at this line created by the water. This line is called the **water table**. Water below the water table is called the **saturation zone**.

5. Now pretend that your pitcher of water is a large rain cloud and pour some more water into your second aquifer until the water table is about one half an inch below the surface of the gravel. Your groundwater supply has just been **recharged**. This is what happens when it rains or snows and water **infiltrates** (or sinks) into the ground.

### Optional Extension

Use colored water or powdered drink mix to represent a source of groundwater contamination. Sprinkle or pour the contamination on the top a cup filled with gravel and water. Sprinkle water (rain) on top of the gravel. Observe and discuss what happens.

### Conclusion

We have learned that groundwater is water that is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and gravel. We have learned that groundwater is stored in--and moves through--the layers of sand and gravel. This geologic formation of sand and gravel which stores groundwater is called an aquifer. Aquifers get more water when they are recharged by rain and snow.

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## 2005 Pesticide Disposal Program

*Submitted by Kyle Wasson, Agricultural Specialist*



If you have any old pesticides - insecticides, herbicides, rodent poison or fungicides - lying around unused, the Montana Department of Agriculture will take them off your hands.

The agency will hold waste pesticide collections in southwestern Montana in June. The collections are scheduled in Townsend on June 21, in Bozeman on June 22, and in Dillon on June 23.

The collections are a nonregulatory, service program offered annually by the Department of Agriculture, which allows pesticide users the opportunity to dispose of the chemicals safely, economically and conveniently.

The longer a pesticide is held in storage, the greater the risk of spillage that will cause injury to people or contamination of the environment. Old pesticides, neglected or in poor storage, can be exposed to children, livestock and pets, causing serious injury or death. Containers can corrode and leak. Fire or flooding can cause pesticide releases that can contaminate soils and groundwater, leading to costly cleanup.

Unusable pesticides are those that cannot be applied because the registration has been canceled, such as DDT, EDB, dinoseb, chloridane, endrin or mercury, or products that you cannot use because of product age, storage conditions, or loss of label.

Fertilizers, motor oils solvents, and paints cannot be accepted at the pesticide collections.

Registration is required so that the collections can be operated safely, efficiently

and with a minimum of congestion at the collection sites. Directions to the sites and the date and time for participants to arrive will be mailed to you after registration forms are received. Registration forms must be returned by Tuesday, June 14.

Information about the safe transportation of the pesticides to the collection site will be provided.

The program has a fee of \$1 per pound for the first 200 pounds, and 50 cents per pound for additional amounts over 200 pounds. Disposal by other services can cost 5 to 10 times more.

Additional information and registration forms are available by contacting Kyle Wasson in Helena at (406) 444-5400; by mail at Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Disposal Program, P.O. Box 200201, Helena, MT 59620-0201; or by e-mail at [kwasson@mt.gov](mailto:kwasson@mt.gov)

Additional information is also available online at <http://agr.mt.gov/pestfert/disposal.asp>



*Collections are a nonregulatory, service program offered by the Department of Agriculture*

### Collection Dates

- ♦ June 21, 2005  
Townsend, MT
- ♦ June 22, 2005  
Bozeman, MT
- ♦ June 23, 2005  
Dillon, MT

PO Box 200201  
303 North Roberts  
Helena MT 59620-0201

Phone: 406-444-5400  
Fax: 406-444-7336  
Email: [agr@mt.gov](mailto:agr@mt.gov)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
HPPT://AGR.MT.GOV

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## *Up Coming Approved Recertification Training*

**May 25, 2005** \* Annual Spray Crew Training \* **Kalispell, MT** \* 5 Credits – (39) (37) (55) Dealer \* Contact Person: Dave Brink at 406-822-3547

**May 31, 2005** \* Carbon County Spray Crew Training \* **Joliet, MT** \* 4 Credits - (39) (36) (55) Dealer \* Contact Person: Brian Ostwald at 406-962-3967

**June 2, 2005** \* South West Area Crew Training \* **Dillon, MT** \* 6 Credits – (39) (55) (37) Dealer \* Contact Person: Jack Eddie at [jeddie@co.beaverhead](mailto:jeddie@co.beaverhead)

**June 6 and 7, 2005** \* Mosquito Abatement Machine Calibration Tour \* **Three Forks, MT and Great Falls, MT** \* NO CREDITS – SERVICE ONLY \* Contact Person: Patty Denke at 406-444-3730

**June 6, 2005** \* Eastern Montana Crew Training \* **Forsyth, MT** \* 5 Credits – (21) (30) (44) (37) (55) Dealer \* Contact Person: Amy Adler at [rosebudweed@rangeweb.net](mailto:rosebudweed@rangeweb.net)

**June 22, 2005** \* Marias River Basin Float Trip and Weed Tour \* **Tiber Marina, MT** \* 3 Credits – (39) (37) (55) Dealer \* Contact Person: Tyler Lane at 406-434-5351

**July 12, 2005** \* OFA Short Course \* **Columbus, OH** \* 6 Credits – (36) (39) Dealer \* Contact Person: Association of Floriculture Professionals, Stephen A Carver, Ph.D. at [ofa@ofa.org](mailto:ofa@ofa.org)

**August 2, 2005** \* Noxious Weeds: Invaders in our Woods \* **Glacier Park, MT** \* Credits not reviewed at this time \* Contact Person: Brenda Hall at 406-758-5798

**October 17 and 21, 2005** \* Industrial, Institutional, Structural, and Health Related Recertification Training \* **Billings, MT and Missoula, MT** \* 6 Credits – (40) (45) (39) Dealer \* Contact Person: Janet Kirkland at [jakirkland@mt.gov](mailto:jakirkland@mt.gov)

**October 19, 2005** \* Seed Treatment and Elevator Pest Control Recertification Training \* **Great Falls, MT** \* 6 Credits – (35) (39) Dealer \* Contact Person: Janet Kirkland at [jakirkland@mt.gov](mailto:jakirkland@mt.gov)